



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

The waterfront CitiStorage facility, part of which burned down this past winter, is the only thing between Williamsburg and Greenpoint residents and their contiguous 28-acre park.

THE PROMISED LAND

City: B'wick Inlet Park will get bigger — we just don't know how

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The city insists that it is committed to completing a Williamsburg and Greenpoint waterfront park that it promised a decade ago — it just won't say how, when, or with what money.

Following months of silence to reporters, locals pols, and park advocates, a spokeswoman for Mayor DeBlasio finally said last week that the city still in-

tends to expand Bushwick Inlet Park to the full 28 acres that the Bloomberg administration committed to in 2005, but refused to say if and when it will acquire a key plot of land that sits smack-dab in the center of the planned park and is needed to complete the space.

"NYC Parks continues to take substantive steps toward the development of Bushwick Inlet Park's additional parcels, which together

with the completed area will bring 28 new acres of public green space to the Williamsburg-Greenpoint waterfront," said spokeswoman Monica Klein.

When pushed to clarify, Klein reiterated her message.

"We continue to pursue completing the whole park," she replied and refused to respond further.

But local residents and politicians, who have been trying to get city officials to meet with them to

discuss the park for months, say a commitment without details is worthless.

"They are ducking the question," said state assemblyman Joe Lentol (D-Greenpoint). "If they want to build the park, they need to spend the money. It is that simple."

The city first committed to building a 28-acre park in 2005 when it rezoned much of the area's waterfront to allow develop-

ers to erect luxury apartment and condo buildings. The planned park is supposed to run for five-and-a-half continuous blocks starting at the northern edge of East River State Park. Ten years on, the city has only procured 17 acres of that land, about seven acres of which it has turned into actual parkland so far.

But the city currently has no schedule or funding in place to pursue. **See PARK on page 4**

So how DO you build a park without land?

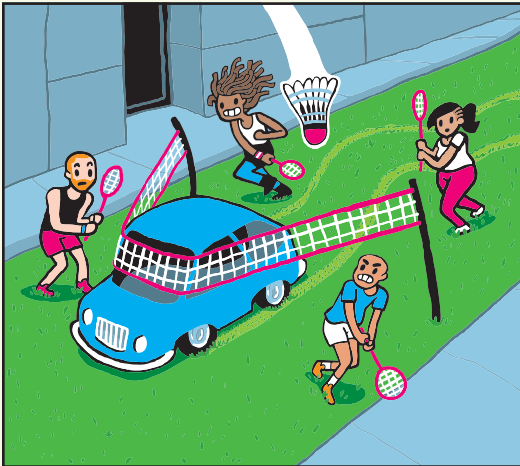
The city has promised to build a 28-acre park on the north Brooklyn waterfront, but will not explain where that land is going to come from. We have a few ideas. Illustrations by Sylvan Migdal.



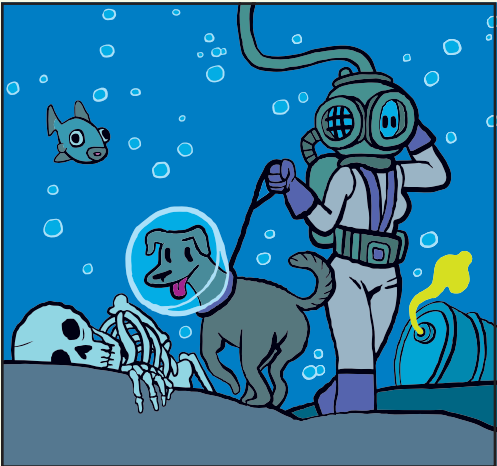
IN THE AIR: Build on top of the current parkland a la the High Line — or go even higher.



IN THE EARTH: The city could create subterranean sports fields under the existing park.



IN THE STREET: Turf over the surrounding streets so that every excursion becomes a walk in the park.



IN THE WATER: The grass is always greener when you're downstream from Newtown Creek.

Oh, scrappy day!

City brings composting pick-up to Greenpoint

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Everything moldy is new again.

The city is expanding its fledgling food-waste recycling program to Greenpoint next month, offering curbside collection of table scraps and yard trimmings, which it will transform into plant food and, eventually, natural gas, says New York's trash czar.

"We hope our organics col-

lection program will not only reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills but also create compost, a natural fertilizer," said sanitation commissioner Kathryn Garcia.

The trash commission will ship brown bins to Greenpointers in single family houses and apartment buildings with nine or fewer units between June 11 and 15, and will start picking up the contents weekly from June 15. (Peo-

ple who live in larger apartment blocks will have to keep schlepping their scraps to farmers markets for now).

Environmentally conscious residents say the sidewalk service will make it easier being green.

"I am all for it," said Greenpoint resident and committed composter Ellen Oettinger. "We have been hauling our frozen food scraps to McCarren on Saturday



Photo by Jason Speelman

Compost Coordinator Lisa Giordano and Bushwick resident Xander Knight sort compost at McCarren Park.

mornings for four years now."

The city also plans to turn Greenpoint's old banana peels and pizza crusts into an energy source at the neighborhood's sewage treatment plant on Newtown Creek.

The plant will pump the watered-down waste into its so-called digester eggs, and capture the potent methane that rises from the slurry.

Utility giant National Grid will then re-brand that fart gas as natural gas, and sell it back to householders.

The city will likely need more space for additional digester eggs in the future as the project grows, said officials.

The pilot composting program

has already been up and running in Windsor Terrace since 2013, and Greenwood Heights, Sunset Park, Park Slope, Gowanus, and Bay Ridge since 2014.

The program is voluntary for now, but officials say participation might become mandatory in the future after it rolls the scheme out city-wide.

As of late last year, at least a quarter of eligible homes in the participating Brooklyn neighborhoods were diligently wheeling their brown bins to the curb.

Park Slopers and Gowanusites are the most enthusiastic composters, with more than 45 percent of bin-owning homes in those 'hoods putting them to use, according to city data.



Photo by Cate Dingley

Vets want memorial reopened

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

They want to keep the memory alive.

Borough Hall is pledging \$1 million to help rehab the Cadman Plaza World War II Memorial, Borough President Adams announced on Wednesday, after veterans launched a campaign to renovate and reopen the long-shuttered monument. Vets and park activists kicked off the fund-raising effort during a ceremony at the site on

Sunday, and one Fort Greene vet said the move likely cornered the borough's pols into helping to restore the shrine to Brooklyn's fallen warriors.

"It's about time somebody did something," said Roy Vanasco, who served in the Navy in World War II and lost many friends to combat. "For 20 years I've been asking politicians and they promise, but nobody ever committed. I think we trapped them on Sunday, and now they're going to

do as much as they can."

Dedicated in 1951, the Cadman Plaza monument includes a memorial hall in which the names of the more than 11,000 Brooklynites who fell in World War II, but that section has been closed for 25 years due to a lack of funds.

Vanasco is part of an effort to raise \$1.5 million towards the restoration. The money will pay to make the bathrooms wheelchair

See VETS on page 4

New chief for Museum

Anne Pasternak to lead P'Heights institution

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

It is her biggest installation yet.

An arts administrator known for organizing large-scale public art works will take over as the new director of the Brooklyn Museum later this year, the Prospect Heights institution announced last Tuesday.

Anne Pasternak, who is currently the president and artistic director of public-arts organization Creative Time, will assume the mantle in September, and says she plans to lead the borough's premier art museum to even greater heights.

"With a distinguished history, an experienced leadership team, a forward-thinking staff, and a bold mission, the Museum is extremely well positioned to go even further as a place for great art, learning, and civic vibrancy — in Brooklyn and beyond," said Pasternak.

In her 21 years at the helm of Creative Time, Pasternak oversaw some of the most famous public art projects in New York's recent history, including "Tribute in Light," the two massive searchlights that shone in place of the original World Trade Center to commemorate Sept. 11, and "A Subtlety," a 35-foot sugar-coated sphinx statue that artist Kara Walker exhibited inside the old



Anne Pasternak will succeed Arnold Lehman as director of the Brooklyn Museum. Last year she helped bring Kara Walker's work (above) to Williamsburg.

departing chief, who ruffled art-world feathers but won over many Brooklynites during his reign by booking exhibitions designed to appeal to the masses and championing Kings County artists, said Pasternak is a worthy successor.

"Anne is one of the most dynamic and creative forces in the art world today," said Lehman, who announced his retirement in September last year. "I expect that once her extraordinary experience and energies are connected to the exciting, inclusive brand and treasures of the Brooklyn Museum, the blend will be 'dynamite!'"

Domino Sugar factory in Williamsburg last summer.

The 50-year-old Connecticut native will be the first woman to run one of New York's big encyclopedic museums, but she will be in good company — the Museum, which is also home to the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, already has a female chair, female vice-chair, and female president.

Pasternak will take over from Arnold Lehman, who is stepping down as the Museum's director after 18 years at the post. The

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Blaze of glory

FDNY ambulance crews battle it out

By Danielle Furfaro

The Brooklyn Paper

They're the best of New York's Best.

The top Fire Department ambulance crews from around the city pitted their life-saving skills against each other at the 15th Annual Emergency Medical Technicians Competition at Downtown's MetroTech Commons on May 21.

The competitors only rescued mock victims from simulated scenarios, but the tournament could very well save real lives one day, said one contender.

"It makes you better in real-time situations," said emergency medical technician Capt. Marcus Brandon, whose Bronx squad won the basic life support contest.

"If we are faced with something like this in real life, we will not be afraid to get in there and get our hands dirty."

The teams of emergency medical technicians and paramedics were presented with a scenario where the dance floor at a nightclub had collapsed, trapping revelers inside as carbon monoxide poured into the building.

The department pumped smoke into the air while the contestants worked to rescue glassy-eyed dummies and a few live volunteers from the disco inferno, scoring points for how well they handled the situation and executed medical techniques.

Brooklyn crews had the home-field advantage, but teams from the Bronx ultimately won first-place trophies and bragging rights in both the basic life support and advanced life support divisions.

Kings County didn't go home entirely empty-handed, though—an outfit of emergency medical technicians from Fort Greene's Station 31 scored third place in the former category.

The public event drew a large crowd of MetroTech office workers who spent their lunch hours watching the hot competition and taking a look inside Fire Department ambulances.

Technicians also offered cardiopulmonary resuscitation classes to the on-lookers, who learned how to perform chest compressions to the beat of the Bee Gees' "Stayin' Alive"—a strategy that really lives up to its name, an instructor said.

"In the first few minutes, the public can make a difference, so they should know how to do this," said Dave Weissman, an emergency medical technician from Queens.



Community News Group / Danielle Furfaro

City emergency medical technician Emmanuel McKenna assesses a dummy during a competition held at MetroTech.

Shooting death in Ditmas Park

By Noah Hurowitz

The Brooklyn Paper

Someone shot and killed a Ditmas Park man on Tuesday night outside a bodega blocks away from his home, police said.

Raphael Kurton, 27, was arguing with his assailant outside a corner store on Newkirk Avenue at E. 17th street shortly before 9:30 pm, when the gunman pulled a firearm and shot Kurton at least once in the torso, according to a police spokeswoman.



Photo by Steve Salomonsen

Police say a gunman fatally shot Raphael Kurton outside of this bodega in Ditmas Park on Tuesday.

Kurton staggered about half a block toward his Ocean Avenue home before collapsing on Newkirk Avenue between E. 17th and E. 18th streets, where cops responding to a 911 call found him lying unconscious, according to a report.

Emergency personnel took Kurton to Kings County Medical Center, where doctors pronounced him dead, cops said.

There have been no arrests and police are investigating the shooting, a report said.

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Appetite for instruction!

Williamsburg school teaches Rock 101

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The halls are alive with the sound of music at Williamsburg’s Juan Morel Campos Secondary School, where rock ’n’ roll high schoolers play concerts in the corridor every Friday afternoon.

The bands set up right by the school’s main door and play rock and pop tunes as kids and teachers are heading home for the day — and now students actually want to stay behind after class, says the teacher-turned-band-booker behind the gigs.

“Every week, everyone will crowd around the musicians,” said Stacey Wong, who teaches music to kids from sixth to 12th grade at the school on Heyward Street, between Marcy and Harrison avenues. “They love it.”

The acts cut their teeth in Wong’s music classes, where she forms the mini Hendrixes and junior Joan Jetts into rock supergroups — each including several guitarists, bass players, keyboardists, and vocalists — and schools them in songs such as “Rolling in the Deep” by Adele, “Take Me to Church” by Hozier, and “Thinking Out Loud” by Ed Sheeran. Kids learn music more quickly by playing Bruno Mars than Beethoven, she said.

“I want them to be able



Photo by Michah Sparenstein

Juan Morel Campos students perform at one of the school’s weekly hallway rock concerts.

to enjoy playing music and then they can throw themselves into the theory,” said Wong. “If they are playing music they do not like, they will not stick with it. I get them playing Adele right away and they love it.”

Wong uses a curriculum called Amp Up NYC, which helps educators to get their students hooked on music

class by teaching them the modern songs they already listen to.

Little Kids Rock — an organization that offers free instruments and teacher training to low-income schools with shoddy or no music classes — created the program in partnership with Massachusetts’s Berklee College of Music and the

New York City Department of Education, and they collectively intend to roll the scheme out to 600 schools city-wide by 2017.

At Juan Morel Campos, the school of rock has been such a success that some of the students have split off into their own bands and solo projects outside of the class. And the kids say they intend to keep on rocking long after school’s out forever.

“Doing this makes it seem easier for me to branch out when I leave here and continue with music,” said 10th-grader Shanice Rodriguez, who has formed a duo with 11th-grade guitarist Elvin Jaquez. “I really want to keep doing this.”

Jaquez said he learned jazz drumming in middle school, but didn’t realize he was really born to shred until he was exposed to the axe in class.

“My family never had that kind of musical direction, but now that I am doing this, it is something that really interests me,” he said.

Amp Up NYC provides the schools with some equipment, but Wong says she has kept up with student demand by asking for donations to purchase extra guitars, amps, strings, picks, and tuners on fund-raising websites.

Sadly for music scenesters, the Friday shows are the only gig in Williamsburg you can’t get on the door-list for — they are only open to students, parents, and staff.

Cyclones ready to swing again

By David Russell
for The Brooklyn Paper

It wouldn’t be summer in Brooklyn without the Cyclones, and — thank the baseball gods — the long winter comes to an end on June 20, when our Boys of Summer take on their cross-Narrows rivals, the hated Staten Island Yankees, at beloved MCU Park.

The Brooks are looking to make the playoffs for the first

time since the 2012 campaign — a three-year drought that is the longest in franchise history, and one that has fans dreaming that this year will finally be the proverbial next year.

Leading the Mini Mets for the second year in a row will be Hollywood icon Tom Gamboa, known as Scout Martinez to movie buffs for his role in the Academy Award-nominated “Moneyball,” who hopes to improve on last year’s disappoint-

ing (to us) 42–34 record.

We all know Gamboa can do better, as the former third-base coach for the Chicago Cubs and first-base coach for the Kansas City Royals once led the Palm Springs Power of the Southern California Collegiate Baseball League to a 34–4.

Pitching coach Tom Signore is also back, and in a total blast from the past, former Cyclone catcher Yunir Garcia — who batted .177

with the squad as a 20-year-old in 2003 — joins Brooklyn as the new hitting coach. Former Met All-Star Edgardo Alfonzo will also be back as guest first-base coach, primarily for home games and nearby road games.

Brooklyn Cyclones at MCU Park [Surf Avenue between W. 16th and W. 19th streets in Coney Island, (718) 449–8497, www.brooklyn-cyclones.com]. \$10–\$17.

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(718) 260-2500 *The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Brooklyn* June 4, 2015

Chilled out

The best boozy slushies in Brooklyn

By **Trupti Rami**
for *The Brooklyn Paper*

They're the hottest cold drink around! Slushie machines aren't just for 7-Elevens anymore — bartenders around the borough are combining the childhood nostalgia of sugary frozen drinks with the adult pastime of sinking a few alcoholic beverages in the sun by mixing up booze-infused slushies. Here are some of Brooklyn's best.

Glady's

This Crown Heights Caribbean bar and eatery offers two icy cocktails to take the heat off your jerk chicken — a slushified twist on a Dark 'N' Stormy, and one on a Greenwich Sour, which is made with bourbon and red wine.

[343 Franklin Ave. at Greene Avenue in Crown Heights, (347) 552-5684, www.gladysnyc.com].

Nights and Weekends

This Greenpoint bar is known for mixing Mexican and island fare, and its slushie menu is no different, offering a rotating lineup of chilly tiki and margarita variations.

[1 Bedford Ave. at Nassau Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5349, www.night-sandweekendsny.com].

Whiskey Soda Lounge

Not a traditional slushie but certainly worthy of a mention, the boozy offshoot of trendy Thai eatery Pok Pok serves up a specialty called bia wun — that's Thai for "jelly beer" — made by freezing bottles of Singha beer in a special revolving contraption that turns the liquid into a refreshing slush.

Whiskey Soda Lounge [115 Columbia St. at Kane Street in the Columbia Waterfront District, (718) 923-9322, www.whiskeysodalounge-ny.com].

Pork Slope

A locavore slushie? Only in Park Slope. This porcine eatery uses slush from Brooklyn's own Kelvin Natural Slush Co. in its take on a Hurricane, which also includes rum, passion-fruit, and orange juice.

[247 Fifth Ave. between Garfield Place and Carroll Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-7675, www.porkslopebrooklyn.com].

Battery Harris

This Caribbean-influenced bar is renowned



Ice to meet you: Shannon Mustipher, beverage director at Glady's in Crown Heights, serves up a Dark 'N' Slushy and a sangria slush.

for its Dark 'N' Stormy "frozie," which classes the drink up by adding a toasted five-spice ginger syrup, and floating the rum on top.

[64 Frost St. between Meeker Avenue and Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718)

384-8900, www.batteryharris.com].

Bushwick Country Club

Not actually a country club, this watering hole has a slushie machine that turns

out frozen concoctions including Jim Beam and coke, and sweet tea vodka.

[618 Grand St. between Leonard and Lorimer streets in Bushwick, (718) 388-2114, www.bushwickcountryclub.com].



In harmony: Dancer Johari Mayfield will perform to a reading of Walt Whitman's poem "One Hour to Madness and Joy" at Standard Toykraft on May 31.

Walt-zing on

Dancer pays tribute to Bard of Brooklyn

By **Allegra Hobbs**
The Brooklyn Paper

It is poetry in motion! A Bushwick dancer will honor Walt Whitman by performing an interpretive dance to a live reading of one of the legendary poet's verses, as part of a birthday celebration for the Bard of Brooklyn at Standard ToyKraft in Williamsburg on May 31. Whitman's 160-year-old words translate surprisingly well into modern dance, said the performer.

"His poetry for me is very visual and very kinetically driven," said Johari Mayfield, who is also a dance teacher and choreographer. "The verbs that he uses are very active and dance is a visual and visceral language, so the marriage between the words and movement is a good synergy."

Johari Mayfield will perform while actors Adam Thompson and Rachel Boschen recite Whit-

man's poem "One Hour to Madness and Joy" from his seminal work "Leaves of Grass." The dancers said she has a rough structure for the dance already, but wants to leave the choreography open so she can react to the words in real-time.

"I'm going to allow myself to ride whatever is happening in the moment," said Mayfield, who has previously danced to "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" at a Langston Hughes birthday party.

Mayfield won't be the only artist putting her own spin — literal or otherwise — on Whitman's work at the party, dubbed "Cake, Whiskey, and Whitman." Other poets will recite their own Whitman-inspired prose, and a photographer will exhibit a slideshow of her snaps of tattooed bodies as the actors read "I Sing the Body Electric" — a pairing that is particularly inspired, the event's organizer said.

"Tattoos and body images go so well with the poem," said

Gina Inzunza of Pop Lab, the experimental poetry performance troupe throwing the birthday bash. "It's crazy that it goes so well with something so trendy right now."

The celebration is the latest in a long line of creative tributes to Whitman in his native borough in recent years. A theater troupe turned his poems into a musical, restaurateurs translated his diet into a Clinton Hill eatery, sport-loving sonneteers slapped his name on a baseball jersey, an artist made a bust of his head entirely out of Legos, and every year, dozens of Whitmaniacs dress up like their hero and gather to give a marathon reading of his poem "Song of Myself."

Whitman would be 196 year old this year, but Inzunza said he is still someone that many modern Brooklynites can relate to.

"He's the kind of figure that embodies the eccentric artist-poet-writer that a lot of the people who come to New York aspire to be," she said. "He embodies free thought and free-living."

"Cake, Whiskey and Whitman: The Walt Whitman Birthday Party" at Standard ToyKraft [722 Metropolitan Ave. between Graham and Manhattan avenues in Williamsburg, www.standardtoykraft.org]. May 31 at 2 pm. Free.

PARTY

Totally wired



Photo by Jason Speakman

Party like it's 1999's vision of 2015!

A Boerum Hill hacker collective is rewiring the traditional art-show fund-raiser, fusing together a retro-futuristic sci-fi shindig and exhibition that an organizer promises will include robots, virtual reality, and liquid nitrogen.

"It will look like what a '90s cyberpunk author would have penned a party to be like in 2015," said David Huerta, who is helping to organize the annual Interactive Show at NYC Resistor, a workshop on Third Avenue where locals can tinker with tech projects and take classes on programming and circuit-board building. "The fund-raising ends after you buy your ticket, and the party begins as soon as you walk in. There are no auctions or anything afterwards. More party, less paddles."

About 14 artists, most of whom are Brooklynites, are contributing interactive, electrified artworks to this year's show, all inspired by the theme "Robotic Future Party Zone." Organizers intentionally chose an ambiguous theme to help the creators think outside the tool box, said Huerta.

"We want to demonstrate a future where human, cyborg, and machine can celebrate their existence rather than fall into the predictable narrative of 'AI apocalypse,'" said Huerta, who lives in Gowanus. "This encompasses both robotic works and art which would be appreciated by AIs."

One of the participating artists said she will exhibit a musical pop-up book with conductive-ink text and illustrations that produce music when touched, and will come wearing a dress with cloth flowers on the chest, crotch, and butt that scream and cry when they're touched.

"I have a fascination with finding mundane objects that are taken for granted, such as food, clothing or books, and embedding them with technology that makes users experience them on a whole other level," said Gowanus artist and inventor Ariel Cotton, who last year made lady-shaped chocolates wired with edible circuitry that moan when you bite into them.

Another creator has built a motion-controlled game where players compose four-minute musical tunes using their hands and feet, which she said she made to show people how she feels when dancing to music.

"My goal is to increase empathy by conveying stories through the works I create," said Catt Small, who lives at the intersection of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Crown Heights, and East New York.

It's also just plain fun, she said.

"The piece I'll have in the show is definitely great for parties," said Small. "It gets pretty wacky and people usually have a fun time."

NYC Resistor has been running the Interactive Show for five years, and uses the cash raised to fund its programs and workshops on topics such as laser-cutting and electrifying soft toys.

Interactive Show at NYC Resistor (87 Third Ave., fourth floor, between Dean and Bergen streets in Boerum Hill, www.nycresistor.com). May 30 at 8 pm. \$15. — **Trupti Rami**

SHOW

Mirth mother



Sylvie Roselleff

This show is all in the delivery.

A doula is throwing a pregnancy-themed variety show at the Bell House in Gowanus on June 3, which she says will tackle popular fallacies about pregnancy, childbirth, and abortion with irreverent humor, pointing a critical eye at the way these issues have been portrayed in movies and television shows like "Knocked Up" and "Melrose Place."

"This is a great opportunity to correct some misconceptions or deconstruct them," said Mary Mahoney, organizer of "Pregnant Pause," and founder of the Doula Project, an organization that assists pregnant women through childbirth and abortion. "People are really influenced by pop culture, but pop culture rarely gets pregnancy right."

One movie Mahoney says does get it right is the 2014 indie romantic comedy "Obvious Child," which is about a Williamsburg comedian who struggles with whether to tell her one-night stand that he is the father of the fetus she plans to abort. The flick's writer and director Gillian Robespierre will be at the show to answer questions and show clips from the film, which Mahoney said offers a view of the procedure that we rarely see on screen.

"It is not about abortion being a super hard decision," she said. "It is about what happens after the decision is made."

Other baby bump-themed acts in the show, which will raise money for the Doula Project, include a reading from poet Stella Padnos-Shea, stand-up from comedian Sriya Sarkar, and a dance performance by artist Terry Hempling. Eleanor Kagan and Kseniya Yarosh, who host a film podcast called "Bonnie & Maude," will emcee the night.

The show will also feature silent auctions for sex toys, massages, and concert-tickets, plus pregnancy-themed drinks with names including Rosemary's Baby and Jane the Virgin.

"Pregnant Pause: A Variety Show about Pop Culture and Pregnancy" at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third streets in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, www.thebell-house-ny.com]. June 3 at 6:30 pm. \$20 (\$10 in advance). — **Danielle Furfaro**



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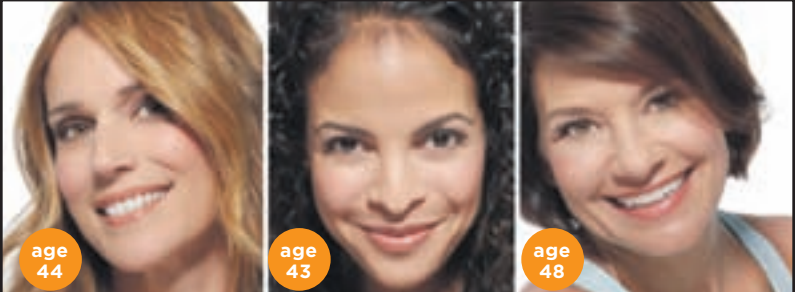
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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY

May 29



Up on the roof

Watching movies indoors? Over. Films in the park? Too many bugs. The cool kids this Friday are chilling out up top, watching short films, (including over-the-top kung fu Internet sensation “Kung Fury”) on the roof of Industry City, followed by a New Amsterdam Vodka-sponsored after-party.

8 pm at Industry City (220 36th St. between Second and Third avenues in Sunset Park, www.rooftopfilms.com). \$15.

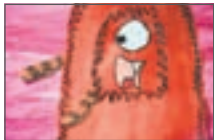
SATURDAY

May 30

Fun-sized film fest

The 11th annual kids-filmfest, a pint-size spin-off of the Brooklyn Film Festival, caters to junior movie mavens with a showcase of G-rated short films. This year’s lineup of animated and live action shorts includes tales of toy robots, ordinary kids, and a giant orange monster heading out for a day at the salon (“Lilly’s Big Day,” pictured below).

1 pm at Made in New York Media Center (30 John St. between Jay and Pearl streets in Dumbo, (718) 729-6677, www.kids-filmfest.org). \$12 adults, kids 12 and under free.



SUNDAY

May 31



Die and skate

These zombies seek brains, beer, and shredding! The New York City Zombie Crawl will stagger through McCarren Park on Sunday evening on its way to an after-party featuring zombies on skateboards, bloody burlesque, and musical guests Unicorn Smack, Sparklelight, and BLKVampires.

8:30 pm at Black Bear Bar (70 N. Sixth St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg, www.nyc-zombiecrawl.com). \$12 for zombies, \$14 for humans.

WEDNESDAY

June 3

Queen meets Kings

After 22 albums, 10 Grammys, and more than 40 years of performing, the legendary “Queen of Funk” Chaka Khan reaches the pinnacle of her career by performing before a discerning crowd of Brooklynites, kicking off this year’s Celebrate Brooklyn festival.

8 pm at Prospect Park Bandshell (enter at Ninth Street and Prospect Park West in Park Slope), (718) 965-8900, www.bricarts-media.org. Free.



THURSDAY

June 4



Rush hour

Every festival in the borough seems to kick off this week, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music R&B Festival at Metrotech joins the crowd by launching its lunchtime series on Thursday with Mississippi bluesman Bobby Rush, known for bawdy songs like “Bowlegged Woman, Knock-Kneed Man” and “Chicken Heads.”

Noon at Metrotech Commons (2 Metrotech Center between Jay Street and Flatbush Avenue Downtown, www.bam.org). Free.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, MAY 29

READING, BETH O'BRIEN AND CRAIG SHEPARD: Releasing their book of photography from the “On Foot: Brooklyn” project. There will be a show of printed photographs, a reception, interview with the artists, and a multi-media show. Free. 7–10 pm. Old Stone House (Third Street and Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195), www.oldstonehouse.org.

“THE MENU FOR MARS KITCHEN” OPENING RECEPTION: The Menu for Mars Supper Club will create a Mars-friendly kitchen to investigate the future of food on Mars, allowing visitors to cook using Mars-feasible ingredients. Dishes will be documented, sampled, evaluated, and vacuum-packed and sent to NASA to augment their preparations for colonizing Mars. 7–9 pm. The Boiler (191 N. 14th St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-2144), <http://www.pierogi2000.com>.

ART, “LOST IN SPACE” OPENING RECEPTION: Group art show Featuring Brendan Monroe, Bwana Spoons, Deth P. Sun, Evah Fan, Ian Ferguson, Jen Tong, Jordan Crane, Josh Cochran, Kristen Liu-Wong, Robert Plater, Seonna Hong, and Shawn Cheng. Free. 7 pm. Grumpy Bert (82 Bond St. between Atlantic Avenue and State Street in Boerum Hill, (347) 855-4849), www.grumpybert.com/blogs/art-shows-events/18482500-lost-in-space-group-art-show.

FOURTH ANNUAL TAIWANESE NIGHT MARKET: Sample authentic Taiwanese dishes from local vendors, try Taiwanese drinks, and play games reminiscent of those you’d find in night markets and arcades in Asia, and. \$40. 7 pm. The Villain (50 N. Third St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (203) 313-2563), nightmarket2015.tap-ny.org.

THEATER, “SAINT JOAN OF THE STOCKYARDS”: Berlin director Peter Kleinert’s “Saint Joan of the Stockyards” tells a tale of romance between a meatpacking tycoon and a Salvation Army worker set amidst 1920 Chicago’s immigrants, millionaires, and do-gooders in a world dominated by greed and stupidity. \$25. 7:30 pm. Irondale Center (85 S.



Singing out loud: British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran will play Barclays on May 31.

COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

FRI, MAY 29

SPORTS, AMIR KHAN VS. CHRIS ALGIERI, PAULIE MALINAGGI VS. DANNY O'CONNOR: Boxing. \$52–\$257. 6:15 pm

SUN, MAY 31

MUSIC, ED SHEERAN: \$65–\$85. 7:30 pm.

SAT, JUNE 6

SPORTS, MIGUEL COTTO VS. DANIEL GEALE: Boxing. \$32–\$507. 6 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618–6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

SAT, JUNE 13

MUSIC, COMBINACION PERFECTA SALSA CONCERT: Featuring Oscar D'Leon, Tito Nieves, La India, Ismael Miranda, and others. \$70.50–\$305.50. 8 pm.

SUN, JUNE 14

MUSIC, AMPLIFY 2015: Featuring Ne-yo, Ludacris, and Cash Cash. \$9.23–\$92.30. 7 pm.

WED, JUNE 17

MUSIC, BARRY MANILOW: \$19.75–\$249.75. 7:30 pm.

http://

Find lots more listings online at BrooklynPaper.com/Events

Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233), www.irondale.org.

DANCE, SWITCH N' PLAY'S ODRAGYSSSEY: An Epic Drag Themed Magical Adventure! Drag show based on the works of Homer's tale of love, drama, and one very long boat ride! Plus raffle prizes, games, burlesque, lip-synch performances. \$15. 10 pm. Sideshows by the Seashore (1208 Surf Ave. between W. 12th Street and Stillwell Avenue in Coney Island, (718) 372-5159), www.coneyisland.com.

SAT, MAY 30

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

“IT’S MY PARK!” DAY: Join the Prospect Park Alliance and NYC Parks to give back to Brooklyn’s park. On “It’s My Park!” Day, volunteers will gear up with brooms, shovels, rakes, paint brushes, and trash grabbers to tackle a major cleanup effort in Prospect Park. Free. 10 am–1 pm. Prospect Park, 16th Street entrance (16th Street and Prospect Park South West in Park Slope, (718) 287-3400), www.prospectpark.org.

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, SLOW HANDS, MUSIC, “LEG- END OF SIGH”: Cellist Inbal Segev will give a workshop performance of a new immersive multimedia piece for cello and electronics written by composer Gity Razaz that explores of birth, transformation, and death through the retelling of an old Azerbaijani folktale. \$20 (\$15 in advance). 5–7 pm. Pioneer Works (159 Pioneer St. between Imlay and Conover streets in Red Hook, (718) 596-3001), pioneerworks.org.

MUSIC, LLOYD COLE: \$25. 6 pm. Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400).

See **9 DAYS** on page 8



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NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION

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A whiskey business!

Cobble Hill author pens new book on bourbon

By Sarah Iannone
for The Brooklyn Paper

He is giving it to us straight. A Cobble Hill whiskey expert is serving up the spirited story of bourbon in a new book. In “Bourbon Empire: The Past and Future of America’s Whiskey,” author Reid Mitenbuler traces the liquor back to its origins in America, through to modern-day distilleries and recent revival, explaining how the drink has made its mark on the country along the way.

On June 3, he will sign copies of his book — and no doubt share in a few rounds — at Ramona Bar in Greepoint. We caught up with Mitenbuler ahead of the event and asked for some neat facts.

Sarah Iannone: Why an entire book on bourbon?

Reid Mitenbuler: On its own, the story of this drink finds its way into all these great corners of American history: the Whiskey Rebellion, the Whiskey Ring scandal, big business, Madison Avenue. It has all of these inspiring elements — innovation, ingenuity, etc. — but it also has the prickly sort of things — corruption, oddball marketing — that round out the tale and make it three-dimensional. Bourbon is one of those rare products that can be used as a comprehensive lens to explore American capitalist culture, both for better and for worse.

SI: For example?

RM: In the decades immediately following the Civil War, taxes on alcohol composed between a third and half of government revenue. Schemes to skim from those taxes or avoid them led to all sorts of colorful scandals. The whiskey industry was gobs-smackingly corrupt, and helped spur a number of consumer protection laws that extend into many other parts of American life today.

SI: How did you get interested in bourbon?

RM: At first it was a kind of fashion accessory — I was fresh out of college, had joined the military, and needed an unfussy go-to drink at the bar on base. Then I discovered that I liked it and went down one of those rabbit holes where you find foodies geeking out.

SI: What’s the most interesting



Ninety-nine bottles of bourbon on the wall: Cobble Hill whiskey expert and writer Reid Mitenbuler with his new book on bourbon.

thing you learned about the spirit while researching the book?

RM: This isn’t in the book, but you know that sweet, vanilla-like smell you find in old book stores and libraries? It comes from the wood pulp used to make paper — those same chemical compounds are found in the wooden barrels used to age whiskey, and are what give bourbon a similar aroma. That factoid poetically ties together my book and its subject.

SI: Please bust one myth about bourbon.

RM: There are a million, but I’m surprised at how many people think it can only be made in Kentucky. It’s truly an American thing, and can be made in any state, although most of it does come from Kentucky.

SI: Why do you think bourbon has made such a comeback in recent years?

RM: It’s almost like comfort food today. All those old-timey labels harken back to a nostalgic past that we like to imagine was simpler. I don’t think it really was simpler, but enjoying this storied drink with all this great history surrounding it at least gets us part of the way there.

SI: What is your go-to bourbon?

RM: It depends — something a little younger and higher proof during the summer, so I can dump it on ice. In the winter, something a little older — eight to 10 years — that I’ll drink neat. I try hard not to fetishize any brands and don’t think there’s any single gold standard or “best.”

SI: What is a good choice for a beginner?

RM: Nothing too expensive. Many of my favorite — brands that I find have the best balance — are usually

priced very reasonably. After trying those, folks can move to the pricey stuff. Then, after they realize that the super pricey stuff isn’t always worth the effort, they can return to the classic standbys.

SI: Where are your favorite bars to drink bourbon in Brooklyn?

RM: I love Char No. 4, which is down the street from me in Cobble Hill. The staff is knowledgeable and the selection is well curated — always something interesting on hand but not overwhelmingly completist. Noorman’s Kil in Williamsburg also has a great selection and good prices.

Reid Mitenbuler signs “Bourbon Empire” at Ramona Bar (113 Franklin St. between Kent Street and Greenpoint Avenue in Greenpoint, www.wordbookstores.com) June 3 at 6:30–8:30 pm. Free.



Photo by Steve Solomonson

No bore!

‘Boredom’ no snoozer

If you want to be bored, we suggest watching paint dry.

A cynical 1904 screed about Coney Island’s decadence written by a bleak Russian philosopher and adapted into a play by the amusement park’s biggest booster gets a revival at Coney Island USA this weekend, but its title — “Boredom” — is a total misnomer. The production strikes comedic notes (dark, Russian ones — the best kind), tugs at heart strings, and is loaded with enough philosophical makes-you-think moments to turn Malcolm Gladwell green with envy.

But like all philosophical statements, ours comes with a qualifier — the play is best suited for Coney history-philes and fans of Russian lit. If you think Karl Marx is a mustachioed film star or that Fyodor Karamazov and sons are the latest roots-coustic indie-folk-rock craze, save your cash for the Cyclone.

Russian thinker Maxim Gorky wrote the essay after



visiting Sodom by the Sea in 1904. He was staying in Staten Island and (understandably) very bored, so his comrades tried to cheer him up with a trip to Coney Island. But Gorky immediately pegged the People’s Playground as a decadent sham — a particle-board amusement Mecca that could not sate New Yorker’s spiritual boredom.

In his adaptation, Coney Island’s unofficial mayor Dirk Zigun frames the action inside an amusement workers union meeting. Gorky and mistress Maria Andreyeva perform the essay as an address to the union hall, lending additional narrative to what is essentially an hour-long monologue.

Most of the lines come straight from Gorky’s vodka-fueled diatribe, but Zigun has inserted small scenes that break from the text and give the audience a few shots of character development.

Back to the USSR: (Pictured left) Kicked out of Manhattan, bored with Staten Island, and disillusioned by Brooklyn, Gorky and Maria sail from American back to Russia.

Having Gorky and Maria split monologist’s duties breaks the relative monotony. And voicing the essay through two separate characters helps audiences to buy into Gorky’s radical claims without writing them off as one writer’s grumpy exhortations.

In his essay, Gorky lambasts the papier-mâché props that populated old rides like “Hell Gate” in the historic People’s Playground. Set designers Kate Dale and Marie Roberts picked up the cue and ran with it beautifully. This play may be the first in community theater history where constructing sets from papier-mâché was an artistic choice rather than a sin of necessity. We love it.

We’re no anthropologists, but Atalanta Siegel’s Russian accent was good enough to make us think Zigun and director James Rana plucked the Washington D.C.-raised actress straight from Brighton Beach Avenue.

We would, however, have liked to see more of Chris De-Pierro’s Gorky. In the few moments he commanded center stage, DePierro spat hellfire and cynicism like a serf who just spilled borscht on his favorite cassock — even if his New Jersey accent occasionally rang through.

And props to Luis Michaels, who played Tony the Carpenter, for keeping a cool head and tossing in a little ad-lib when a drunken heckler proclaimed (quite ironically) that the show was “a f----- bore” and stomped out of the theater.

Gorky infamously said of Coney Island “If people come here to be amused, I have no faith in their sanity.” But If you go see “Boredom,” we sure as hell won’t call the men in white coats on you.

“Boredom” at Coney Island USA [1208 Surf Ave. at W. 12th Street in Coney Island, (718) 372-5159, www.coneyisland.com]. May 29–30 at 8 pm. May 31 at 6 pm. \$15. \$10 for Russian speakers.

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6
www.unionhallnyc.com.

OTHER
ART, SOUTH PARK SLOPE ARTISTS TOUR: Artists and galleries in the South Park Slope will be opening their doors for the “South Park Slope Artists Tour,” with over 25 artists showcased. **Free.** 1–6 pm. Freddy’s Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768–0131], www.freddysbar.com.
DREADING, THE WORD CABARET: A new reading series, featuring Brooklyn wordsmiths, including storytellers, playwrights, essayists, novelists, comics, spoken word artists, and poets. **Free.** 4pm. Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition [499 Van Brunt St., near Reed Street in Red Hook, (718) 596–2506], www.bwac.org.

SUN, MAY 31
OUTDOORS AND TOURS
TALK, BROOKLYN LITERARY PUB CRAWL: Tour several Brooklyn Heights pubs closely connected to some of the literary greats.

\$15–\$20. 1 pm. Henry Street Ale House [62 Henry St. between Cranberry and Orange streets in Brooklyn Heights, (212) 613–5796], www.literarypubcrawl.com.
PERFORMANCE
MUSIC, NYC POPFEST: Featuring performances by Club 8, Eternal Summers, Lunchbox, Seabirds, Palms On Fire, Starry Eyed Cadet, and Sapphire Mansions. \$22 (\$20 in advance). 3 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855–3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.
MUSIC, “A CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN SONG – FROM COPLAND TO KIRSTEN”: Soprano Laura Strickling and pianist Brent Funderburk perform songs by Barber, Cipullo, Kirsten, Oldham, Copland, Heggie, Musto, Lyons, Balcom, and Assad. \$20. 4 pm. The Old Stone House [336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768–3195], theoldstonehouse.org.
OTHER
COMEDY, VULTURE FESTIVAL: Comedy Night: Featuring comedians Kevin Barnett, Wyatt Cenac, Jermaine Fowler, Brett Gelman, Chris Gethard, Cyrus Ghahremani, Jared Logan, Colin Quinn, Max

Silvestri, and Michelle Wolf. \$30. 7:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebell-house.com.
ROCCO’S PIZZA EATING CONTEST: Eleventh annual competition. **Free.** 3 pm. Rocco’s Pizzeria and Restaurant [7818 Fifth Ave. between 78th and 79th streets in Bay Ridge], www.roccospizzaon5th.com.

MON, JUNE 1

GREEK FESTIVAL: Week-long celebration of Greek culture, with homemade food and pastries, dancing, music, and more. **Free.** 11 am–9 pm. Saints Constantine and Helen [64 Schermerhorn St. between Court Street and Boerum Place in Downton, (718) 624–0595], www.stconstantinecathedral.org.
TALK, BRANDON DOMAN: Brandon Doman presents “What’s Your Story?” a culmination of “The Strangers Project,” in which Doman asked strangers one simple yet revealing question and received hundreds of candid responses. **Free.** 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666–3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

COMEDY, THE MEHRAN SHOW: Iranian comedian Mehran Khaghani hosts a weekly comedy show, with celebrity and comedian guests joining him on stage. \$10 (\$8 in advance). 9 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallnyc.com.

TUES, JUNE 2

COMEDY, THE BBOX RADIO COMEDY SHOWCASE: A special edition of Dumbo Comedy featuring comedians of BBOX Radio, Brooklyn’s Community Internet Radio Station, including Laura Spaeth, Irene Bremis, Mike Bocchetti, Tom Ragú, and Ellen Karis. Hosted by Aaron Kominos-Smith. **Free.** 7:30 pm. Dumbo Kitchen [108 Jay St. at York Street in Dumbo, (718) 797–1695], www.funnyaaron.com.
MUSIC, HIATUS KAIYOTE, RICH MEDINA: \$20. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963–3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

WED, JUNE 3

TALK, DAN STILES: Acclaimed designer and illustrator Dan Stiles talks his new book collection “One Thing Leads to Another,” a compilation of over 200 concert posters Stiles designed for artists from Sonic Youth to Feist.



Photo by Steve Solomonson

Pie face: Rocco’s Pizzeria in Bay Ridge will hold its annual pizza-eating contest on May 31.

Free. 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666–3049], www.powerhousearena.com.
MUSIC, TROY AVE, PHONY PPL: Part of SummerStage. **Free.** 7 pm. Red Hook Park [Halleck Street between Otsego and Court streets in Red Hook], www.cityparksfoundation.org/summerstage.
THEATER, “OLIVER”: Brooklyn Theatre Club presents Charles Dickens’ “Oliver,” following the adventures of the orphan Oliver Twist in Victorian England. \$15. 8:30 pm. Muchmore’s (2 Havemeyer St. at N. 9th Street in Williamsburg), www.brooklyntheatreclub.com.

THURS, JUNE 4

THE 2015 BROOKLYN VOLUNTEER FAIR: Bringing together nearly 80 Brooklyn-serving organizations that rely on volunteers to enrich the community, offering opportunities for families, individuals, seniors, students, and anyone with a spirit for giving. **Free.** 5:30–8 pm. Park Slope Armory [Eighth Avenue at 15th Street in Park Slope, (212) 673–7030], www.ymcanyc.org/armory-sports-complex/armory-sports-home/facility.
RED HOOK FEST: Dance Theatre Etcetera Presents the Happy Hour Kick-Off for the 22nd Annual Red Hook Fest. **Free.** 6–8 pm. Hometown Bar-B-Que [454 Van Brunt St. at Reed St. in Red Hook, (845) 661–5480], www.redhookfest.com.
FILM, REEL SISTERS OF THE

DIASPORA FILM FESTIVAL AND LECTURE SERIES: Pride and Gender: A Film Conversation celebrates LGBT Month with a premiere screening of director Seyi Adebajo’s film “Oya: Something Happened on the Way to West Africa.” \$10. 6 pm. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488–1624], www.brooklyn.liu.edu/kumbletheater.
FILM, SUNDANCE SHORTS: Summer @ Metrotech presents a selection of films from the 2015 Sundance Film Festival. **Free.** 8:30 pm. Rooftop Films [232 Third St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 417–7362], www.rooftopfilms.com.

FRI, JUNE 5

MUSIC, LYRICIST LOUNGE FEATURING SCARFACE: SummerStage presents Scarface, solo artist and member of rap group Geto Boys. **Free.** 7–9 pm. Red Hook Park [Halleck Street between Otsego and Court streets in Red Hook], www.cityparksfoundation.org.
TALK, WILL DAVIES: Will Davies shares his new book “The Happiness Industry,” an exploration of the recent obsession with quantifying happiness. New School philosophy professor Simon Critchley joins. **Free.** 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666–3049], www.powerhousearena.com.
MUSIC, ONE DAY WAITING, DANGERHOLE, NEVER-EVEN, REIGN OF ZAIUS, CRIMSHAW: \$8. 8 pm.

Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599–1000], www.thetrashbar.com.
THEATER, “GREASE 3: The Browning of Rydell”: Sketch comedy troupe American Candy presents a full-length musical comedy about Rydell High becoming racially integrated. Ticket includes a pre-show open wine bar. \$25. 8 pm. Actors Fund Arts Center [160 Schermerhorn St. between Smith and Hoyt streets in Downtown], www.american-candygrease3.eventbrite.com.

SAT, JUNE 6

PERFORMANCE
DANCE, RED HOOK FEST: Dance Theatre Etcetera Presents the 22nd Annual Red Hook Fest, with an eclectic mix of bands and dance companies, including Chop and Quench, Soul Movement, and flamenco company A Palo Seco. **Free.** Noon–7 pm. Louis Valentino, Jr. Park [Between Coffey and Ferris streets in Red Hook, (845) 661–5480], www.redhookfest.com.
MUSIC, SPRING FLING ‘98: The epic prom you wish you got in high school, featuring live music from the Aquatic Safety, Geena Davis, Hannah vs. the Many, and Haley Bowery and the Manimals. Plus ‘90s trivia, photos, king and queen, and a midnight hip-hop dance party. \$7–\$10. 7 pm. Rock Shop [249 Fourth Ave. between Carroll and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 230–5740], www.therockshopnyc.com.

OTHER
ART, GRATTAN STREET PERFORMANCE BLOCK PARTY: Performance art, installations, live music, food trucks, gallery trucks, and more. **Free.** 12:30–5 pm. Grattan Street Performance Block Party [Grattan Street between Bogart Street and Morgan Avenue in Bushwick, (718) 366–6311], pineboxrockshop.com.
ART, “RUMMAGE”: Whitney Lynn presents a series of performative installations, featuring a rotating artist’s interpretation of a garage sale. **Free.** 7–9 pm. Open Source Gallery [306 17th St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (315) 382–7398], www.opensourcegallery.org.
FILM, “THE WOLFPACK”: Part of Rooftop Films. Includes Q&A with filmmaker Crystal Moselle, live music, and an after-party. \$15. 8 pm. Industry City [220 36th St. between Second and Third avenues in Sunset Park, (718) 417–7362], www.rooftopfilms.com.

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Why I love a bodega

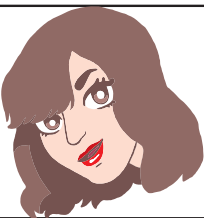
It is the place you can grab a gallon of milk or a can of frosting at midnight, but is it possible it is also one of those amazingly New York things that, like Central Park, makes us all a little calmer and happier?

The bodega is what we’re talking about today: That humble store, often as tall as it is wide, stocked with every item you didn’t expect to find there. (Except you sort of did, or why’d you go there in the first place?)

Muffins mummified in cling wrap, plantain chips both salted and un, Hershey bars slightly reshaped by global (or at least store) warming — all these are staples at the typical mom-and-pop bodega.

But you can also find these staples — cheaper, bigger, less lumpy — at the local supermarket, which is often just a block or two further. So why would anyone patronize the dinky little deli when there is a bona fide grocery right across the street?

“Speed!” says Bill Dysel, an opera singer and tech manual writer. (Yes. Both.) “I often run into my local bodega, pay, and get out within 60 seconds. At the grocery everything has to be scanned and there are long lines. Some-



Rhymes with CRAZY

By Lenore Skenazy

how bodega cashiers always know what everything costs from memory.”

“And it’s across the street!” says Brooklyn’s Isabel Kraut, a mom of two. Convenience is the key.

“You can send your kid to get milk without any wayward glances,” adds another mom, Liz Gustafson.

There’s also something of the scavenger hunt about the bodega. You go in there and think, “They can’t *possibly* have a strawberry syrup.” Or, “I don’t want to go to the supermarket just for *one* package of onion soup mix.” And then you look way, way, waaaaay up on the shelf — and there it is!

But even beyond the speed and clown-car quality of being stuffed with a million items you can’t believe all fit, there is another draw. The people.

“I’ve run to my local bodegas to grab sodas or snacks a few times and realized I didn’t

have enough cash on me. And rather than run to the ATM and back, the owners—who know me as a regular—have let it go with the promise that I’ll bring back the full amount the next day,” says Inwood’s Jena Tesse Fox, a writer. “You can’t do that in a supermarket.”

“On Monday when I needed an avocado I went to get one at the bodega and the owner said, ‘They’re not so good, but they’re the only ones we have today,’” reports social researcher Marla Sherman. She skipped the purchase, but that is the way bodega owners win hearts. They’re on our side.

“When I lived on 10th Street, I liked the bodega on Second Ave. and 10th because they would feed snacks to Dooley — little pieces of turkey,” says journalist Adrienne Press. Dooley was her basset hound.

Homemade food also lures us in. In the backroom or up-

stairs, some grandma is making pakoras, or tacos. I was in an East Elmhurst bodega the other day that sold homemade glazed fruit. And the smells are irresistible, too.

As the years go by and relationships deepen, the family bodega owners become our extended family, too.

“When my mom had a severe stroke, the owner of the local mini-market saw me through his window, walking home from the hospital in tears,” marketing consultant Amanda Hass recalls. “It’s a bit of a blur, but he made sure I had food. And, years later, he made the platters to feed folks after she died. He let me ‘borrow’ his best worker to help me move her belongings. Twice. So hell yeah, I don’t mind paying a premium.”

When you live in a city where the people who sell you your gum also lend you money, love your dog, and see you through life’s biggest transitions, you live in a city that cushions the slings and arrows of daily life.

Let us raise a cup of \$1 coffee, then, to the very best bodega in New York City.

The one down your block. *Lenore Skenazy is a public speaker and founder of the book and blog Free-Range Kids.*

When disaster strikes

There is a young Nepalese woman who works at my dry cleaners. She came here for college a few years ago, leaving her entire family behind. She knew she wouldn’t be able to afford to return home until after she finished her studies. Now, she follows her family’s plight through the devastating earthquakes there from thousands of miles away, mourning relatives she’s lost, worrying about her family’s safety.

I often think about tragedy from my perspective as a parent, but this young woman has opened my eyes to how my children might experience a catastrophe that hits home, but not them. My teenagers are often away from me now,

at college, school trips, summer programs, or just sleeping over at a friend’s house.

What if something happened to our home or me? A car crash, fire, or random dangers of city life, or worse, if disaster hit the city? How would my daughters find out? Would they know what to do? Who to call? Whether to come home and, if so, how to get there?

I like to think I’ve prepared my girls for life. They know how to cook, shop, get a job, get an ATM card from the bank, drive a car. Always, though, it has been under the



The Dad

By Scott Sager

assumption that I’d be around for awhile and my departure, hopefully many years from now, would come with time for both emotional and practical preparation. That is just not how life always works.

At the root of my fear is the fact that I don’t want my daughters to feel alone or abandoned. It is a big world and I like to think I provide them a center, a place of security and safety, a

place to return both physically and emotionally. As they move farther afield and are more independent, I become less important to them day to day. I offer something else, a place to turn to for grounding, support, a few extra bucks, and a hot meal.

None of us really know when we’ll lose a parent. My father died suddenly at the age of 62. As much as I try to prepare for my mother’s eventual passing, I’m sure there are ways I won’t be ready, even though I’m older and independent.

The young woman has soldiered on, showing up for work, going to class. Still, I see something changed in her face, a sadness or distance perhaps.

A giant burden has been placed on her young shoulders, one that could land on any child’s, with no way to prepare.

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Do-it-yourself internet network hits Ridge

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

Many hands make light-speed network.

A group of techies aiming to build a citywide, community-owned wifi network is making inroads into Bay

Ridge. Called NYC Mesh, the network links computers together using standard wifi routers — allowing us-

ers to share internet connections, set up openly accessible community message boards, and even communicate with

one another when internet service is not available.

NYC Mesh installed a router — also called a “node” — in a Bay Ridge apartment last month. The main motivation for joining is cutting the cable from major internet providers, one designer said.

“It’s not Time Warner, it’s not Comcast — it’s getting away from the telecom oligopolies,” said Brian Hall.

The basic equipment costs \$22, there are no monthly service fees, NYC Mesh volunteers will help install the equipment, and there’s basically no upkeep, another designer said.

“Once it’s set up, it really should just run,” said Ridgite Daniel Grinkevich, a cybersecurity engineer who installed the system in his 71st Street home in April. “You might need a reboot every once in a while, but that’s it.”

Mesh differs radically from traditional internet.

Traditional internet works like a post office, according to Elisa Duggen, a San Francisco tech engineer. First, someone drops a message in the mailbox. Then the post office (akin to an internet service provider) takes the message to a central location, processes it, and delivers it to its destination.

But mesh networks are

more like students passing notes across a classroom, according to Duggen. A kid writes a note and passes it to the person next to him, who passes it to the person next to him, and so on. The note reaches its destination after series of hand-offs, and each student has some role in both routing and transmitting the message, she said.

Since mesh doesn’t rely on a central distributor, it is ideal for keeping people connected in emergency situations where parts of the city lose power or internet, designers said.

The Red Hook Initiative, a community group, created a mesh network that maintained local internet access during Hurricane Sandy — even though most of the neighborhood went dark.

“Everything else was down — Time Warner, Cabelvision,” said Tony Schloss, a director with the initiative. “Tons of people from NYCHA came to [the Red Hook Initiative] to get services and support — and one was a wifi network they could use to let family members know they were okay and apply for disaster relief benefits.”

Aside from emergency preparedness, mesh networks can provide low-cost access to low-income communities



Photo by Steve Solomonson

Dan Grinkevich’s NYC Mesh router will let him create a neighborhood network in Bay Ridge.

that are typically less internet-connected, he said.

In the future, mesh networks in Red Hook, Carroll Gardens, and even Bay Ridge could link up, said Schloss.

“A robust network of networks is a really good goal for us to have as a city,” he said.

NYC Mesh’s introduction to Bay Ridge comes as the city and private partner CityBridge roll out a scheme called LinkNYC that will replace pay phones with kiosks offering free, ad-funded wifi.

The two systems could work in tandem, with LinkNYC kiosks providing internet access and mesh networks delivering that signal to all corners of the city, according to a spokesman for the tech consortium implementing the plan.

“In terms of meshing the two, I think it’s certainly possible, and I think it’s a conversation we’d love to have,” said Jeff Maki, a director at one of consortium CityBridge’s member organizations.

You can request an NYC Mesh node at nycmesh.net.

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Legal Notices

SURROGATE’S COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. COUNTY OF CLINTON. CITATION: File No. 2014-278. In the Matter of the Probate of the Will of STEPHEN F. FLANAGAN, Deceased. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK: TO: JOHN FLANAGAN, HUGH F. FLANAGAN, FRANCES FLANAGAN, WILLIAM FLANAGAN, PHILIP SNEDEKER and TO ANY AND ALL PERSONS WHO MAY CLAIM as heirs at law, next of kin, devisees, distributees, assignees, legal representatives, successors in interest, creditors, mortgagees, lienors, and legal representatives of them and the successors in interest of all of the aforesaid parties and generally anyone having or claiming to have an interest in this proceeding or who is in any way related to the decedent, STEPHEN F. FLANAGAN, late of 292 Ruger Street, Plattsburgh, New York 12901, and to the Attorney General of the State of New York; TO THE ABOVE NAMED PERSONS whose names and/or places of residence are unknown to the Petitioner – (except for the Attorney General) – and cannot with diligent inquiry be ascertained: JAMES E. KEABLE of 95 Maryland Road, Plattsburgh, New York 12903, having presented a Petition for the Probate of the Will of STEPHEN F. FLANAGAN, decedent, dated June 12, 2014, relating to both real and personal property; YOU, THE ABOVE NAMED PERSONS ARE CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate’s Court of Clinton County, at the Surrogate’s Office, Clinton County Government Center, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York 12901, on the 15th day of July, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. why a decree should not be granted admitting said Will to probate and directing issuance of Letters Testamentary to Petitioner, JAMES E. KEABLE. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we have caused the seal of our said Surrogate’s Court to be hereunto affixed. HON. KEVIN K. RYAN, Surrogate. Dated, Attested and Sealed, May 14, 2015. (Seal) Lise M Johnson, Acting Deputy Clerk. TO THE ABOVE NAMED PERSONS, the foregoing Citation is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the HON. KEVIN K. RYAN, Judge of the Surrogate’s Court of the State of New York, County of Clinton, dated the 14th day of May, 2015, and filed with the Petition and other papers in the office of the Clerk of said Surrogate’s Court, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York 12901. The object of the proceeding is to probate the Last Will of STEPHEN F. FLANAGAN, lately domiciled at 292 Ruger Street, Plattsburgh, County of Clinton, State of New York. Dated: May 14, 2015. **ATTORNEY:** Attorney for Petitioner: KEVIN L. PERYER, ESQ. Telephone Number: (518) 566-0584. Firm: KEVIN L. PERYER, P.C. Address of Attorney: 29 Trackside - P.O. Box 3050 - Plattsburgh, New York (12901)

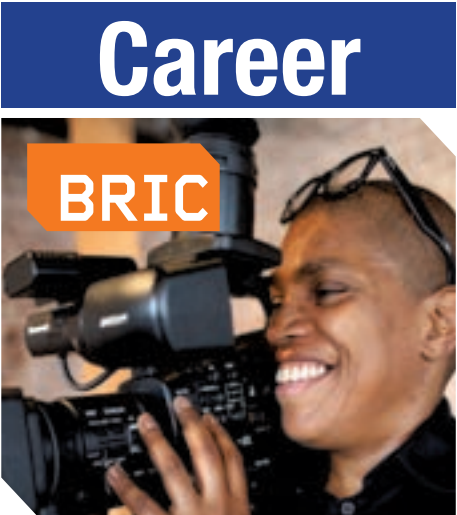
ORDER OF PUBLICATION. D.R.L. 113(3), S.C.P.A. 307(2)(a)(iv) CPLR 315. Form 5 (Adoption - - Order of Publication - - Agency) 8/2010. At a term of the Court of the State of New York held in and for the County of Queens, At 151-20 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica, NY 11432 on April 21, 2015, **P R E S E N T** Hon. CAROL ANN STOKINGER JUDGE. (Docket) (File) No. A-14143/14 146975. In the Matter of the Adoption of A Child whose First Name Is ANNEY A/K/A ANNIE. Upon reading and filing the petition herein duly verified on 4th day of August, 2014 applying for the adoption of the above-named person and upon the affidavit of Faith Getz Rouso, Esq., duly sworn to on 20th day of April, 2015 and it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that the present whereabouts of Bin Lin are unknown and cannot, after due diligence, be ascertained, it is hereby **ORDERED**, that service of a copy of a notice of application for adoption be made upon Bin Lin by PUBLICATION thereof in the following newspaper(s): The Brooklyn Paper, One Metrotech Center, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, New York 11201, once, the publication to be made 14 days before the return day of July 8, 2015 at 09:00 a.m. in the morning on the 5th Floor of Queens County Family Court, 151-20 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, New York before the Hon. Carol Ann Stokinger, Judge of the Family Court. **ORDERED** that on or before the day of first publication the petitioner’s attorney, Faith Getz Rouso, Esq., 128 Front Street, Mineola, New York 11501, telephone number (516-500-9292), deposit in a post office or in any post office box regularly maintained by the government of the United States in the State of New York a copy of the notice of application for adoption, contained in a securely closed, post-paid wrapper, directed to said Bin Lin at his last known address. **ORDERED** that the mailing of the notice of application is hereby dispensed with, the Court being satisfied by the petition and affidavit that the petitioner cannot with reasonable diligence ascertain a place or places where the biological father, Bin Lin, would probably receive the matter transmitted through the post office. **PURSUANT TO SECTION 1113 OF THE FAMILY COURT ACT, AN APPEAL FROM THIS ORDER MUST BE TAKEN WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE ORDER BY APPELLANT IN COURT, 35 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF MAILING OF THE ORDER TO APPELLANT BY THE CLERK OF COURT, OR 30 DAYS AFTER SERVICE BY A PARTY OR THE ATTORNEY FOR THE CHILD UPON THE APPELLANT, WHICHEVER IS EARLIEST. ENTER CAROL ANN STOKINGER Judge of the Family Court. Date: April 21, 2015 Check applicable line: X Order mailed on April 21, 2015 to Faith Getz Rouso, Esq.**

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGS. NOTICE OF SALE. Index No. 504004/2013. 307 E 54 LLC, Plaintiff, - against - JACQUELINE MCFARLANE, NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS, BUREAU, CHICAGO TITLE INSURANCE CO. (AAO & ASO), COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS INC., Defendants. Pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated April 24, 2015, I will sell at public auction, in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on June 18, 2015, at 2:30 P.M., premises commonly known as 307 East 54th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11203, Block 4702, Lot 55 in Kings County, New York, described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the easterly side of East 54th Street, distant 277 feet northerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the northerly side of Snyder Avenue with the easterly side of East 54th Street; RUNNING THENCE easterly parallel with Snyder Avenue, 100 feet; THENCE northerly parallel with East 54th Street, 28 feet 6 inches; THENCE westerly again parallel with Snyder Avenue and part of the distance through a party wall, 100 feet to the easterly side of East 54th Street; THENCE southerly along the easterly side of East 54th Street, 28 feet 6 inches to the point or place of BEGINNING. Property will be sold subject to provisions of the Final Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated April 24, 2015, under Index No. 504004/2013. Jerome Cohen, Esq., Referee Dated: New York, New York May 5, 2015. Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP. By: Keith M. Brandolino, Esq., Maximiliano Rinaldi, Esq., Attorneys for Plaintiff 307 E 54 LLC. 1114 Avenue of the Americas, 21st Floor. New York, New York 10036 (212) 775-8700

NOTICE OF A LEGAL POSTPONEMENT OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGSSHBC BANK USA, N.A., AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF ACE SECURITIES CORP. HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST AND FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF ACE SECURITIES CORP. HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2006-HE2, ASSET BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, Plaintiff(s), Against ERROL FORRESTER, et al., Defendant(s). Index No.: 9222/2009. Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered in the Kings County Clerk’s Office on 8/27/2014, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on 7/2/2015 at 2:30 pm premises known as 351 4th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215, described as follows: ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn and County of Kings, City and State of New York, and designated on the tax maps of the Kings County Treasurer as Block 982 and Lot 61. The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is \$918,657.83 plus interest and costs. The premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 9222/2009. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. Blaise F. Parascandola, Esq., Referee. Original sale date was scheduled for 1/15/2015, same time and location. Leopold & Associates, PLLC, 80 Business Park Drive, Suite 110, Armonk, NY, 10504 Dated: 5/11/2015

PUBLIC NOTICE. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, PURSUANT TO LAW, THAT THE NYC DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015 AT 2:00 P.M. AT 66 JOHN STREET, 11TH FLOOR, ON A PETITION FOR 2122 BEEKMAN BAR LLC TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE AN UNENCLOSED SIDE-WALK CAFE’ AT 2122 BEEKMAN PL IN THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS. REQUEST FOR COPIES OF THE REVOCABLE CONSENT AGREEMENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO: DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ATTN: FOIL OFFICER, 42 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10004.

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 05/22/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000559-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Jade (Middle) Nicolette (Last) Harriell Arrindell. My present name is (First) Jade (Middle) Nicolette (Last) Harriell AKA Jade N. Harriell. My present address is 501 New York Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225. My place of birth is Washington, DC. My date of birth is March 28, 1984.

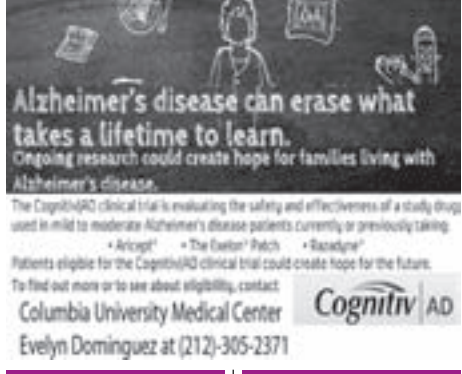
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